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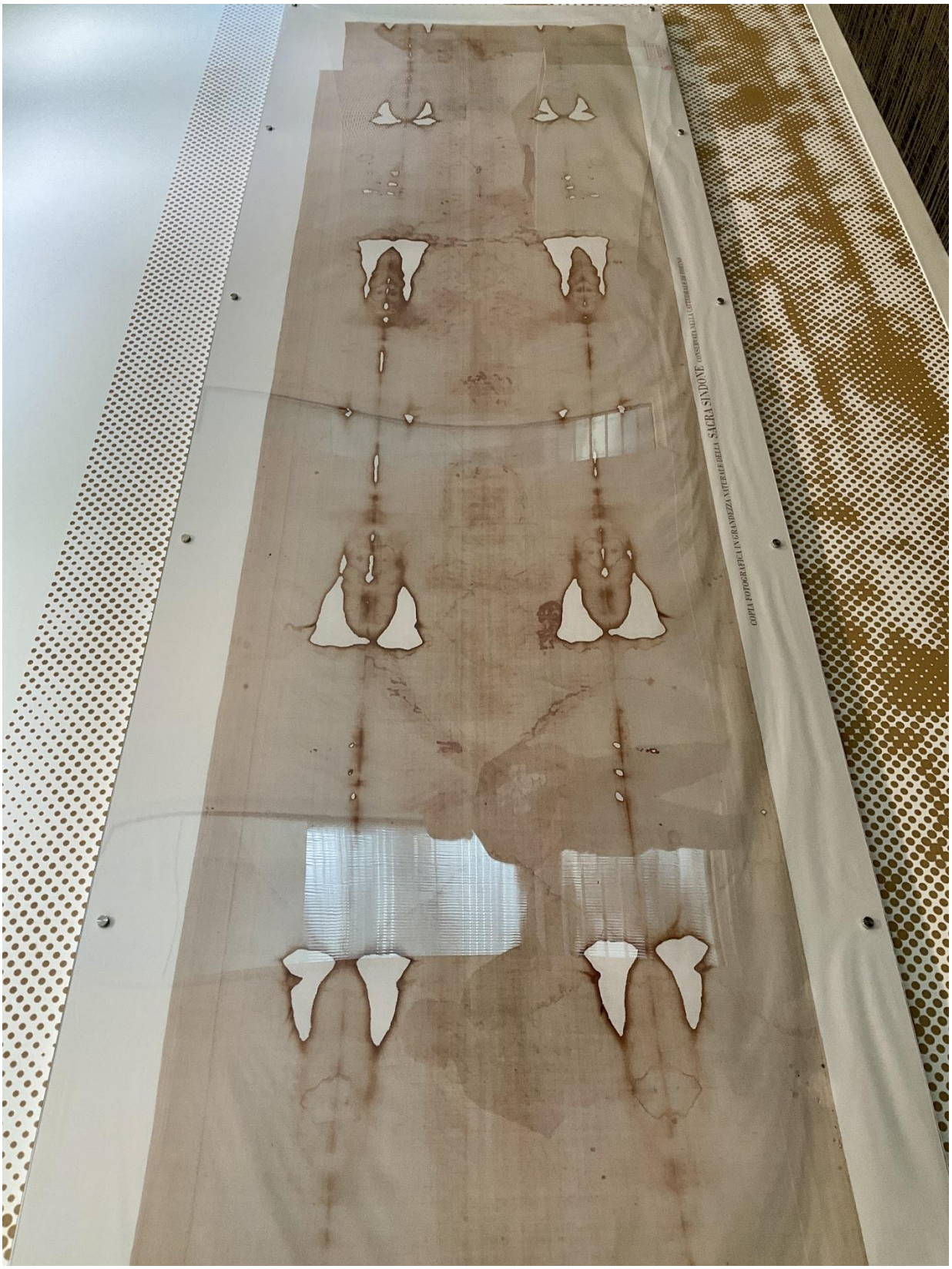
November 2025

Photos of The Shroud Experience in Garden Grove, California, the Most Extensive Shroud of Turin Exhibit in the History of the Western Hemisphere

Entrance to the exhibit, which is on the second floor of the Richard H. Pickup Cultural Center



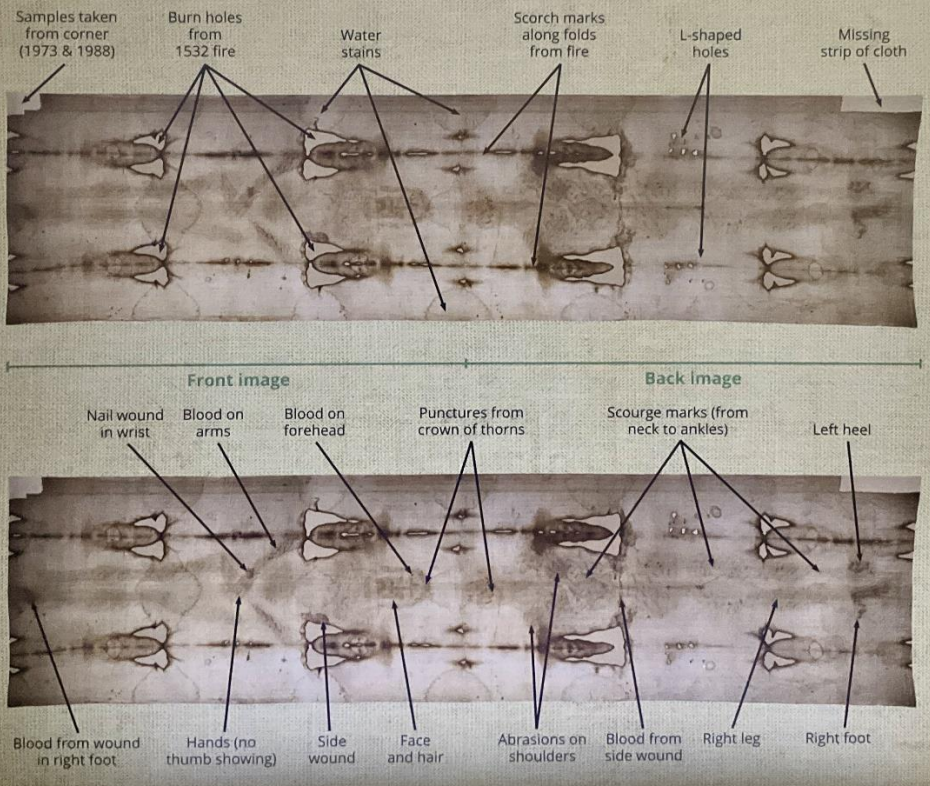
An exact replica of the Shroud of Turin under glass. The linen is more than 14 feet long.

Model showing how the shroud would have covered Jesus.

OTHONIA

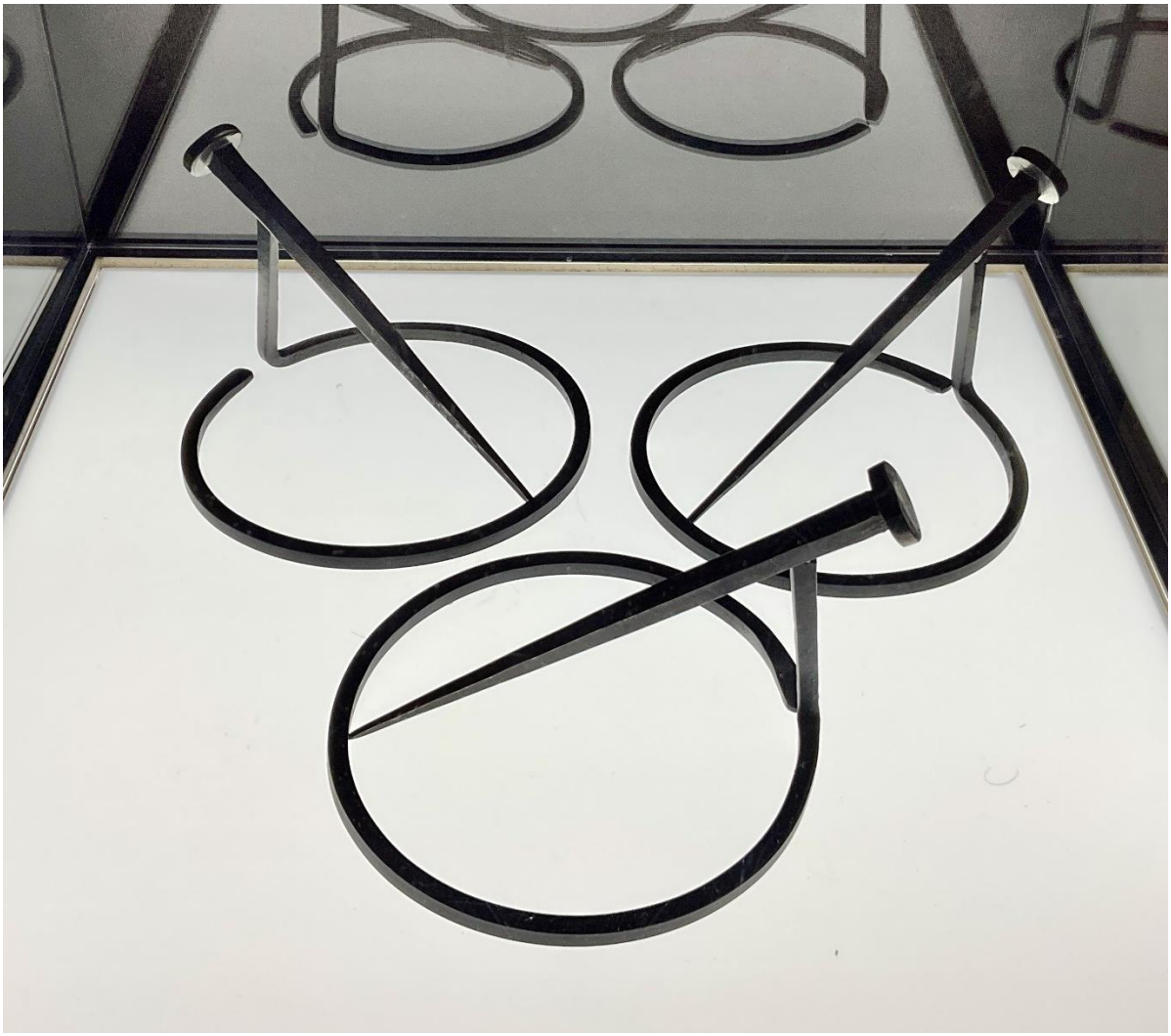
MARKINGS ON THE SHROUD

Some of the most distinctive marks on the Shroud are from fire, water, and blood. These are visible on both sides of the cloth.



Explore More

A replica of the crown of thorns based on the wounds on the shroud image. Jesus Christ is the only historical figure known to have been crowned with thorns, a major reason for believing in Shroud of Turin authenticity.



A replica of the nails used in Christ's crucifixion, based on the wounds on the shroud.

CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH ON THE CROSS

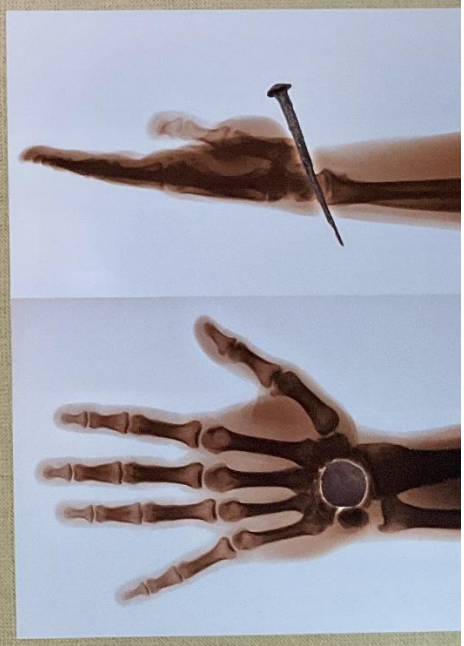
Wounds in the man's hands and feet bear witness to a Roman crucifixion with nails.

HANDS

Paintings of the crucifixion typically depict nail wounds in the palms of Jesus's hands. But this is anatomically impossible. The soft tissue of the palms cannot support the weight of the body, so the hands would rip away from the cross.

However, there is a small area at the base of the thumb with an exit through the wrist. Here, a nail could securely fasten the body to the cross without shattering the bones around it.

On the man of the Shroud, there is a large puncture wound visible in the left wrist. The right wrist is concealed by the folded hands. Neither thumb is visible.



FEET

There is one very bloody footprint where the right foot was placed sole down on the linen cloth. The left foot, still bleeding, was placed next to it.

CAUSE OF DEATH

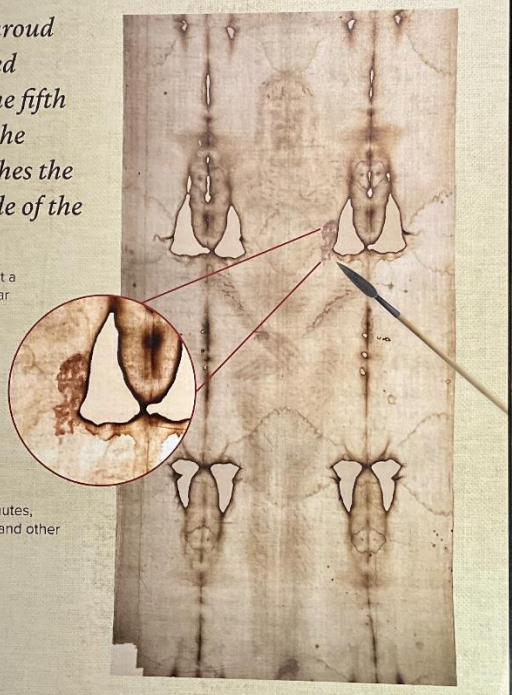
Two flows of blood trickle from the nail wounds in the wrist down the forearms. This indicates the man moved between two positions on the cross, one high and one low. This grating movement was necessary in order to inhale and exhale, but it caused excruciating pain. Typically, crucifixion victims died from asphyxiation. They were too exhausted to continue the movement necessary to breathe.

THE PIERCED SIDE

The man of the Shroud has an oval-shaped wound between the fifth and sixth ribs on the right side. It matches the double-edged blade of the Roman lance.

The Gospel of John records that a Roman centurion drove his spear into Jesus's side to ensure he was dead. John insisted, as an eyewitness, that he saw blood and water flow from this wound in Jesus's side.

The combination of the severe beating, scourging, and hard falls while carrying the heavy crossbeam sped up Jesus's death, most likely from a heart attack. Within 30 to 60 minutes, the blood separated into serum and other components.



Spear wound on the Shroud (detail with added contrast)

"But one of the soldiers pierced

A model of the tomb where Jesus was laid.

THE HISTORY OF THE SHROUD
The Shroud is the most studied archaeological object in the world.
Yet its history prior to the 14th century remains a subject of scholarly debate.
FROM JERUSALEM TO FRANCE TO ITALY
Early Christians sometimes hid church treasures to protect them. An early reference to the Shroud outside of the four Gospels is from a second-century poem. It refers to "a double image of the King of Kings on his burial garment."
LIREY, FRANCE: 14TH CENTURY
The first known public exposition of the Shroud was around 1355 in a modest wooden church in Lirey, France. Geoffroy II de Charny, a French knight, organized the exposition.
LIREY
CHAMBÉRY
TURIN
1578 AD - PRESENT
1578 SHROUD EXPOSITION - WITH CARDINAL CHARLES BORROMEO
ANTONIO TEMPESTA - THE OSTENSIO PIAZZA DEL CASTELLO, TURIN, 1613
CATTEDRALE DI SAN GIOVANNI BATTISTA, TURIN, ITALY
CONSTANTINOPLE
ATHENS
EDESSA
JERUSALEM
PRESUMED JOURNEY OF THE SHROUD BETWEEN JERUSALEM, ISRAEL AND TURIN, ITALY

A key argument against the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin would be that it wasn't widely known for 1,300 years. This display seeks to demonstrate that the shroud was in existence in earlier centuries.

WHAT DID THE MAN OF THE SHROUD LOOK LIKE?

Forensic specialists and image experts have determined certain characteristics of the man in the image.

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

He is estimated to be about 5 ft. 11 in. (1.8 m) tall. Since he is not standing up straight, descriptions of his height can vary.

He is around 170-180 lb. (80 kg). He is muscular and well-built, indicating that he performed heavy physical labor.

FACE

He is bearded and has long hair gathered in the back. His beard is split in the middle where it appears hairs have been stuck together by blood or sweat. He has a narrow, oval-shaped face, a long prominent nose, and almond-shaped eyes. These features are consistent with the likely appearance of Jews in the first century.

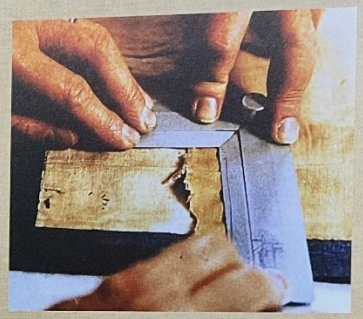
Explore More

"He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him."

—Isa 53:2b

DATING THE SHROUD

In 1988, a strip was cut from the Shroud for radiocarbon dating. A single sample of approximately eight square centimeters was removed from the cloth. This single sample was divided into pieces, then given to three laboratories in Oxford, Zurich, and Tucson for destructive radiocarbon testing.



Photos from 3M archive

The laboratories dated the cloth to between 1260 and 1390, indicating the Shroud was from the Middle Ages. The prestigious journal *Nature* published their report. Media outlets announced the news with the headlines, *"Turin Shroud shown to be a fake."*

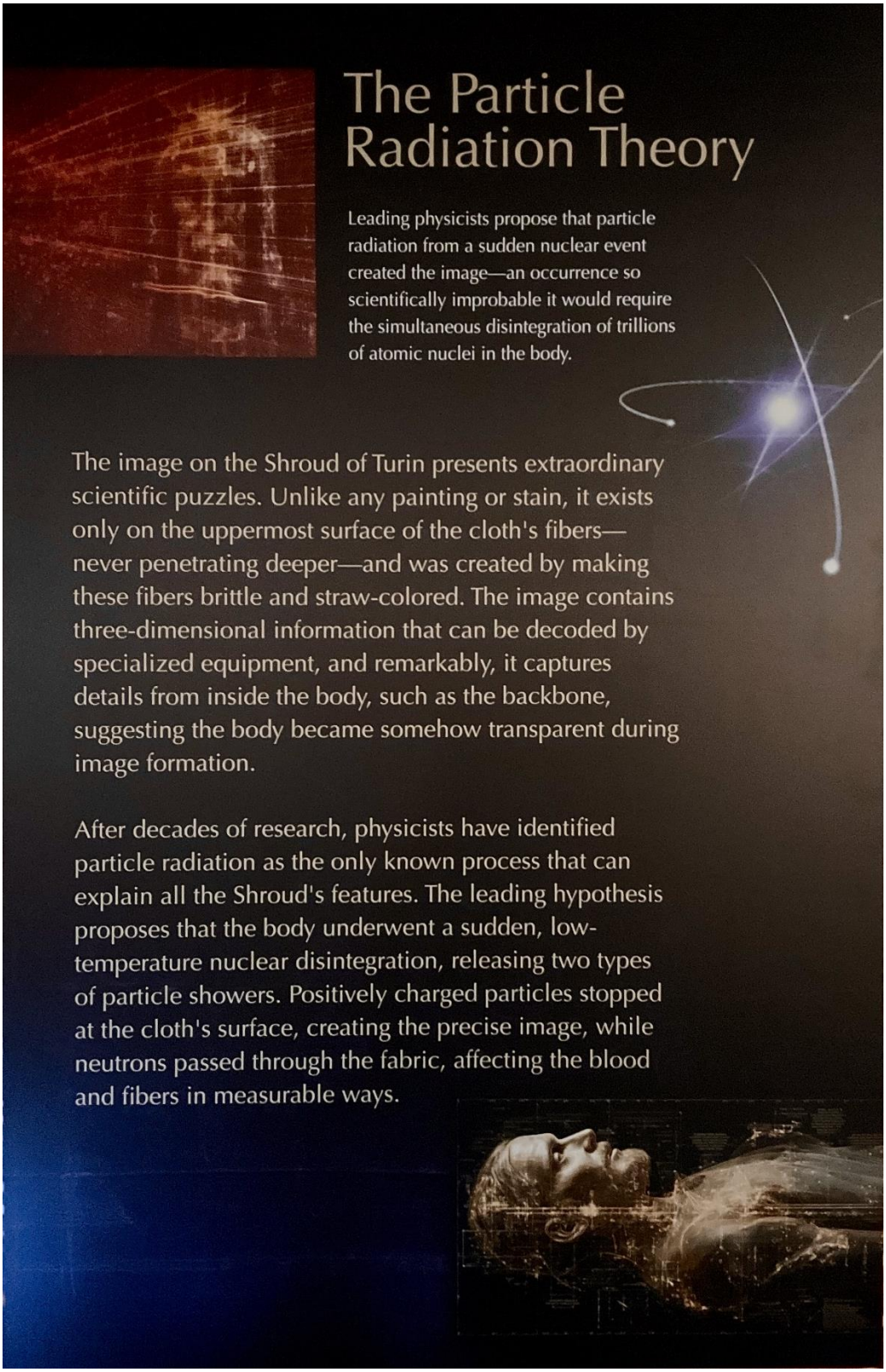
The sample, however, was cut from an area that was possibly repaired in the past. This corner was frequently handled when the Shroud was displayed over the centuries.

2019 SCIENTIFIC REVIEW INVALIDATED THE 1988 RESULTS

In response to a legal request, the raw data from the three laboratories was released to the public in 2017. A 2019 report was published in *Archaeometry* (a peer-reviewed journal published on behalf of Oxford University). A statistical analysis of the *Nature* article and the raw data indicated that the radiocarbon-dated sample was not representative of the whole cloth. The article called for new testing with a robust protocol and an interdisciplinary approach.

Used with permission of The Richard Orareo Collection

BLOOD ON THE SHROUD
Bloodstains can be seen with the naked eye. The Shroud of Turin Research Project (STURP) team verified this is actual blood that tests positive for serum albumin, a protein found in blood. Studies indicate these bloodstains were on the linen before the image.
DIGITALLY ENHANCED IMAGE OF BLOODSTAINS ON THE SHROUD

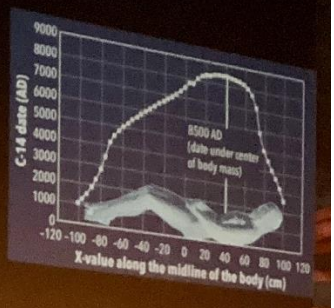

The Particle Radiation Theory
Leading physicists propose that particle radiation from a sudden nuclear event created the image—an occurrence so scientifically improbable it would require the simultaneous disintegration of trillions of atomic nuclei in the body.
The image on the Shroud of Turin presents extraordinary scientific puzzles. Unlike any painting or stain, it exists only on the uppermost surface of the cloth's fibers—never penetrating deeper—and was created by making these fibers brittle and straw-colored. The image contains three-dimensional information that can be decoded by specialized equipment, and remarkably, it captures details from inside the body, such as the backbone, suggesting the body became somehow transparent during image formation.
After decades of research, physicists have identified particle radiation as the only known process that can explain all the Shroud's features. The leading hypothesis proposes that the body underwent a sudden, low-temperature nuclear disintegration, releasing two types of particle showers. Positively charged particles stopped at the cloth's surface, creating the precise image, while neutrons passed through the fabric, affecting the blood and fibers in measurable ways.

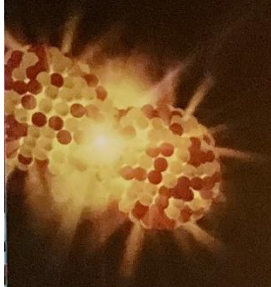
One of two scientific theories used to describe the resurrection of our Lord.

This negative image is more dramatic by photo than in person, a unique aspect of the Turin Shroud.

Millions of Searchlights for Fraction of a Second

Some scientists believe that the Shroud's image was created by radiation, not conventional methods, encoding three-dimensional information from inside the body.





This particle radiation theory explains over 40 enigmatic features of the Shroud, including why the bloodstains remain bright red after centuries (neutron irradiation prevents darkening), why the fabric has exceptional strength and preservation, and why the 1988 carbon dating showed a medieval date. Physicist Robert Rucker demonstrated that neutron absorption would have added exactly enough Carbon-14 to shift the date forward by 1,100-1,400 years, matching the actual test results and pointing to a first-century origin.

Such an event—requiring the simultaneous disintegration of trillions of atomic nuclei in a human body—is considered scientifically inexplicable under natural conditions. The energy required would equal millions of searchlights flashing for a fraction of a second. Whether viewed as scientific anomaly or miraculous sign, the Shroud preserves physical evidence of an extraordinary event that continues to challenge our understanding.

Explore More

Richard Villanueva posing near the model of the shroud.

Kelly Clemensen posing near the Shroud of Turin.

“If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty…But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”

I Corinthians 15